

This Old House

Cozy Up to Fall

- Pretty paint ideas
- Charming period details
- Warm wood finishes

TOH
TOP 100
Best New
Home
Products

Simple wall paneling
DIY shadow box
Vintage-look LEDs
Clever bath upgrades
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70
STONE, TIMBER,
AND
TENACITY

PHOTO: JEFFREY MAYER

By MICHELLE JOHNSON
PHOTO: JEFFREY MAYER
STYLING: JESSICA BROWN



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BUILD IT

on the cover



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I know because you've told me so. And many of you shop this store, too. So turn to page 90 and get started. Have fun, and be a part of *The Old Man*!



This unbreakably sturdy Japanese roll-in-a-hundred-dollar-bill paper sponge came from the Mokko Design Store. (She loves money, does she?)

STEVEN WYLAND
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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home solutions

Edited by Mary Kate Hogan

INSIDE | DRAFT FIXES | OVEN CLEANING | HOME SAFETY | BETTER LEDS | MORE

Stylish log rack

Stay warm by the fire season just feels cooler when you have plenty of wood on hand. A built-in firewood rack can be double duty as a storage solution and a design element. One with an opening 4 feet wide, 2 feet high, and at least 18 inches deep is ideal, enough to hold a quarter of a cord (a 4-foot-high, 8-foot-wide pile). It will give standard 16-inch logs room for air to circulate, preventing mold. Choose well-seasoned or kiln-dried hardwood for insect-free logs that will burn efficiently. Since logs warped outside can get damp, line your rack with moisture-proof material like copper, which adds a layer of protection—and a warm glow of its own.



PHOTO: SHANE SHAW FOR THE HOME DEPOT

Mind the window gaps

Winter's coming. If you can feel a breeze around your closed windows, consider these quick-and-easy ways to block drafts. Such stopgap measures eliminate air leaks by sealing sash perimeters from indoors. Come spring, add or replace weatherstripping for a longer-lasting fix.



ROPE CAULK

This clay-like ribbon comes in gray or brown. Peel off as many of the 15-inch strips as you need to fill gaps and press them in place. They leave no residue, but aren't reusable. The unused portion shrinks to a five-year shelf life. *Martin's Weatherstripping and Caulking Cord*, about \$5 for a 30-foot roll. franklin.com

FOAM BACKED ROGS

These closed-cell polyethylene rods come in a range of diameters, starting at 1/4 inch. They aren't sticky—you press them into place, cut at angle—and they're reusable, if not deterred from being jammed too tightly. *Poly Foam/Caulk Bevers*, from about \$3.50 for 20 feet. mclawsonproducts.com

REMOVABLE CAULK

Using caulk can squeeze a bead of this solvent-free caulk up to 1/4 inch wide. The clear, rubbery bead stays put until you pull it off in the spring and toss it. One tube covers up to 160 feet. *Seal It! Self-Removable Weatherstripping Sealant*, about \$5.00 for a 10.1 ounce tube, ship case. —TOMASZ SUKUP



Is your oven holiday-ready?

If you're prepping for host duty and rather belated to spills in your oven, you may be tempted to let the self-cleaning cycle and walk away. Think twice if your appliance is past its prime, say the pros. The high-heat setting can trigger a service call on an older oven near the end of its life span (13 years, on average). So don't wait until the day—erweek—before a holiday episode that's too much. What to do instead? Try *Sleep Off Paleo Free Oven Cleaner* followed by a thorough wipe-down with a diluted white vinegar solution, suggests one appliance expert. Be aware that your owner's manual may warn against open flames for holiday reasons, because some people misuse them and some products produce toxic fumes. Applying a paste of baking soda followed by a final wipe of diluted white vinegar can work, too, but expect to see a lot more smoke. —M.E.H.

Detector check

Don't know the last time you tested your smoke and CO alarms? They're overdue for your attention.

SMOKE ALARMS On the first day of each month, press the test button to ensure they're working properly. Alarms need replacing every 10 years—the date is printed on the back. Opt for new ones with 10-year batteries, and you never have to change a them; otherwise you need new batteries every year. Install detectors on every level of your house, including in the basement, in every bedroom, and in outside sleeping areas. **CO ALARMS** These sense the odorless but deadly gas created when gas or wood burns without enough oxygen. Place detectors everywhere you have a smoke alarm. And take these precautions: Don't turn up cars in the garage (even with the garage door open), and be sure the vents for gas-powered dryers and ovens don't become blocked by snow. —M.E.H.



A NEW YEAR RESOLVES
NEW DETECTORS

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; ILLUSTRATION: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



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THE LUDRADO STONE



An old-timey look for LEDs

Pictures that show off Edison-style bulbs are everywhere these days. Now you don't need to sacrifice energy efficiency for style, thanks to a new crop of fancy "filament" LED bulbs with nodes configured in arcs, spirals, and other decorative designs. The bulbs' lower price and softer glow means no more excuses—it's time to ditch those old incandescents.



1 • Retrohamp This lighting giant, LLC, said "This is one of the coolest new things only. Many LEDs can't be used in enclosed fixtures—this one can!" The 40W equivalent Vintage Soft White Arcspiral signale LED light bulb, \$14.97, hampcoled.com

2 • Getting warmer If you prefer subtle, soft bulbs with lower temperature glow and warmer light, An amber tint Mini bulb's also helps create a softer glow. 40W Low-watt LED Bulb (26-400) Lumen, \$13 (see story)

3 • Easy fix Bulbs come in every shape, and most—including the ones here—fit a medium base. But there are filament-style candleabra-

style bulbs, too. The Electric E-5 Mini Soft White (2200K) 40W Dimmable LED Clear Vintage Style Light Bulb, \$22, AuroraLight.com

4 • Well-lit We tend to associate with soft white incandescents, but the numbers refer to energy usage. Output with a 40W incandescent, this 40-watt just 2.5W. 40W Equivalent Dimmable Amber 79 Watt, \$9.99, lowe.com

5 • Saving power Edison's early bulbs burned for 1,200 hours. LEDs can easily last 10 times as long. This one is expected to glow for at least 15,000 hours. Furrowed LED 1W Vintage Edison Medium Base Bulb, \$30, shadoclight.com—KATE WOOD



NO DROPPING WAVE

AT MOEN.COM/MOTIONSENSE

MOEN

DIY fire starters

Here's an easy way to light a fire using what Mother Nature leaves on the ground. Tie a length of twine or candle wick (available at crafts stores) to the base of a dry pinecone, wind it between the scales, then snip it off at the top to create a wick. A basketful makes a nice seasonal display on your hearth or mantel. —*4 W*

Keep gutters uncluttered

Scaling a ladder to dislodge clumps of dirty, decaying leaves on anyone's to-do list is a surefire way to get a nasty task off your autumn to-do list for good with gutter guards that keep out leafy debris—while you stay safely on the ground.

POSSIBLE FILLS

These parts make your life easier by making moisture flow through the screen, but they can't collect. Look for filters with a UV-resistant coating and a multi-year warranty. *Clear Filter Plus XT Gutter Filter* from \$36 for 4 feet; gutterguard.com

ALUMINUM MESH

Stainless steel mesh filters out small particles like leaves and pine needles, but support is added by screws or nails to prevent sagging when clogged. *Aluminum Mesh Gutter Guard* from \$17.97 per 2 x 4 foot piece; www.gutterguard.com

QUICK-TO-MESH

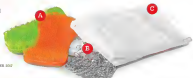
Many companies call for gutter guards that can be installed in a downspout. It's a good idea to choose a filter that is easy to install and remove. *Aluminum Mesh Gutter Guard* from \$17.97 per 2 x 4 foot piece; www.gutterguard.com

—*4 W*

Beats a smelly sponge

Even with regular microfiber sponges get funky fast while harboring germs and food debris in their grooves and plastic scrubber sides. No wonder most folks avoid using sponges for dishwashing and toss them almost as regularly as paper towels. Our grandmothers didn't need them, and neither do we. Augment your elbow grease with easy-care cloths that keep like the ones at night.

- A. STAY CLEAN SCRUBBER** This cleanable scrubber has thousands of heat-resistant, durable, shedding silicone bristles—too soft for rusty pots, but great for dried egg, spaghetti, and sticky clots of dough. It's dishwasher-safe, too. \$8 each; kitchenaid.com
- B. CH SCRUBBER** Lots of abrasives and remove junk on cast iron, stainless steel, enameled iron, and some aluminum. Footballs, minus right out. \$20; chscrubber.com
- C. FLOE BACKING** Keep a clean stack of this cotton-muslin towels on hand to mop spills and buff countertops. Hang to dry. For the better than microfiber, they're right in the washer and dryer. From \$1 each at hardware, cookware, and big-box stores. —*DEBORAH SHUBERT*



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Melinda & Jarrett Milam | Dealers / Owners
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*A majority of STIHL gasoline-powered toolsets built in the United States have domestic steel frame parts and components.

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STIHL



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*"Number one selling brand" selected among outdoor power equipment as well as independent consumer research of 2005-2006 U.S. sales and market share data for the gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment category and not sales in construction and commercial landscapes. ©2007 STIHL.



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• before • after | kitchen

Going for flow

Three cramped, poorly configured rooms become one seamless space for prepping and enjoying meals, as well as tackling the laundry. BY NINA MALIKIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DIER



WHEN IT COMES TO the number of rooms in a house, most realtors always mention "Take Barbra Kruth's 1936 Craftsman-style bungalow in Oakland, CA, where a series of three small rooms—for cooking, breakfasting, and doing laundry—impeded flow to the backyard and home office. Plus, the kitchen itself was badly laid out. "The countertop, sink, and stove were on one side, while the dishwasher and cabinets were on the other," Barbra says. Not to mention that the space hadn't had cosmetic upgrades when she bought the house 32 years ago.

Designer Colina Williams's solution was to gut all three rooms, gaining an open footprint of 180 square feet. A central island holds the

cooktop for casual prep opposite a breakfast bar with stool seating, with the sink, fridge, and wall oven just steps away. For laundry duty, the stacked washer and dryer units take the place of side-by-side machines and are enclosed safely inside a door that opens up the work zone. A banquet-style space-saving seating for the table and backs is lit from two windows. Sink appliances, including a glass and steel vent hood, are softened with pale-gray subway, spaced walls, and a tile backsplash of soothing blues.

"For the first Thanksgiving in this kitchen, six people were merrily eating around comfortably to prepare the meal," Barbra says. "It was wonderful!"



BEFORE Parking point and washer—then cooking may! Showing steady the cramped space took shelving.

AFTER Updated and new in with a perfect open work zone. The kitchen features a combination topped with a granite and white oak flooring that makes the flow in the rest of the house.



While a Siamese tabby rubs against her owner's leg in private, thanks to a custom cat lane. The cat's owner has traditional cat sitting down, so the litter box and other pet supplies are not in the main room.

A cluttered door vestibule with a dryer combo the ideal use for a single person living space. Doors facing opposite ends of the hall to keep the work area unobstructed. Note the cat door.



after

Work flows around a multipurpose island in the middle of the now open and airy 280-square-foot room.



1) Eliminated walls to unify three rooms into one cooking, dining, and laundry space.

2) Added an island to the kitchen and stool seating.

3) Combined the work and storage areas into one main area, featuring it with the island and stool seating.



4) Built in a bench with under-seat storage drawers next to the table.

5) Put in a "cat lane" under the island with pet supplies in the adjacent cabinet.

6) Replaced the washer and dryer with stacked units behind a retractable door, added a tall pet-friendly cabinet in the main room.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY



homeowner tip

BARBARA ARNOLD, GARLAND, TX

"Make accidents happy! The opening for my wall oven was inadvertently cut too large, so the cabinet-maker built a drawer under it that's perfect for my extra oven rack."



Under-cabinet lighting illuminates a brick-paved under-seat area and makes the blue-green tile backsplash glow. (See Sources, This Month)



Large flat storage bins and baskets are stored in the base of the bench. The built-in bench is a custom-made unit that's moved for space and access storage beneath the built-in bench.

Large flat storage bins and baskets are stored in the base of the bench. The built-in bench is a custom-made unit that's moved for space and access storage beneath the built-in bench.



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Room to grow

An architect lets his house's period style influence design choices for the kids' bath, with a surprise twist overhead. BY KATELIN HILL • PHOTOGRAPHS BY VICTORIA PEARSON

A KID'S BATH should feel fun, but powerful design choices should be accessible on a dime. Before Adam and Jill Steinky purchased their 1905 Craftsman house in Santa Barbara, CA, the family of four had been sharing a single bathroom. "I fantasize some amount of time if we didn't give the kids their own space," says Adam, an architect. He wanted the new house's second bath to be one the kids could grow into without it looking too childish later on. He also needed to add a shower to the tub, without making water damage to the windows alongside it. The custom double shower-rinse system Adam designed lets the curtain and doors pull around three sides of the tub when the shower is on; they pull to the side of the window or the end of the tub when it's not. A vanity adds storage and fits into the overall palette of classic black and white—except for the ceiling, which received a pop of light turquoise. Now, Adam says, morning are easier on everyone, and the kids love how the space is tailored for them. "It looks traditional until you walk in and look up," he says. "It's got hidden pizzazz."



BEFORE The bland white bath lacked a shower and storage.

AFTER Now it has a new shower over the tub, a handy in-cupboard storage cabinet, smart black and white fixtures, and a fun bit of color on the ceiling.



The homeowners installed double-lined towel bars so the children can reach the towel rail area and grow into the higher rail. A bumper that grips all the bathroom walls helps the kids keep things tidy on their own. The wood-slatted cabinet above it was already in place. *Top: Jami Winneke*



homeowner tip

ADAM SHAWNEY SANTA BARBARA, CA

"Rather than risk a woefully outdated space later on, use temporary tricks like paint colors or your kids' artwork to make a space youthful yet easy to change as they get older."



A customized system allows the shower curtain and towel bars to be pulled to one side of the window to avoid obstructing natural light. When the shower is in use, a bumper holds the window frame in place. The ceiling panel was color-matched to match the homeowners' kitchen island. *Custom: Jami Winneke*



Tacking a curtain bar behind a custom glass tile protects the wood window from water damage. Maroon 4-by-12-inch tiles look even more water-resistant in a stacked bond pattern. *Shower: Jami Winneke*

after

The bath gained vanity storage and a shower thanks to a window-saving curtain-rail system without changing the room's footprint or layout.

1) Installed custom rods on the shower curtain and towel bars could be pulled out of the way of the window

2) Hung double towel bars to one side of an existing window cabinet and added a bumper below it



3) Opened up the window plants a shower over the existing tub

4) Replaced the pedestal tub with a 42-inch-wide vanity for added storage

5) Upgraded the bath with a water-saving, dual-flush toilet

PHOTO: JAMI WINNEKE



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From disastrous to delightful

A once-charming 1920s house, now saddled with an out-of-balance facade, gets a makeover inspired by its setting

BY KARE WOOD • ILLUSTRATION BY DEHAGATE INC



“WE LOVE the location, the interior, and the yard, but the exterior is really un-love,” says Milla Vanden of the 1920s house in Quincy, MA, that she shares with her husband, Neil Wales, and their two children. So we turned to Hickory Williams Architects for advice on how to improve it. Their team would start by adding new extensions on the left that match the original roof’s steep gable, giving the busy second-story addition the look of an overseas steel dormer. A front porch with a smaller roof gable and an angled ending opens up the entry and allows for a window above it, creating balance. Colonial- and Federal-inspired architectural details, including corner trim and window pediments, give the house a sense of place. “I love the idea of a distinctly New England vibe,” Milla says, “and the new porch and entry are beautiful!”

WANT TO SEE YOUR HOME HERE?
It’s no wonder—submit photos to
redid@thefixmag.com

finishing touches

A creative mix of Colonial and more contemporary finishes completes the new look



point
Bright white door with steel door-pull looks sharp. The door pull is red. **Mirrored Glass** (pink). **Freedom Found** (teal). **Apple & Gray** (blue). From \$20 per gallon. olympic.com



entry light
A factory-inspired hanging fixture draws the eye up to the entry porch’s wood ceiling. **Brooklyn Industrial Cord Plug Pendant** (black). From \$149. lucylightelectrics.com



house numbers
Generously sized, weather-resistant numbers add a solid design element but feel a bit of irony. **Dark Aged Copper Plating House Numbers**. From \$1.68 per digit. ironwood.com



window trim
Weather-resistant PVC trim highlights the window openings. **Southern Colonial Window Trim**. From \$300 per window. www.lucylight.com

A small steel dormer, centered above the front windows on the right, softens the roof’s steep pitch

STIHL

THE POWER OF STIHL IN A BATTERY

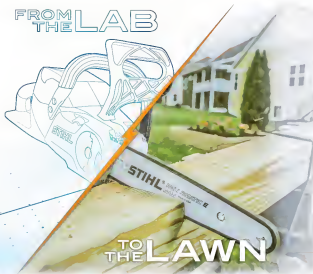


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TO
THE LAWN

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TRIM THE
LENGTH OF **5** FOOTBALL
FIELDS*
ON A SINGLE CHARGE

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SERIES

AK 10 AK 20

AK
SERIES

AP 100 AP 300

AP
SERIES

AR 900 AR 3000

AP
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AI	210-300				
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AK 20		150	150	45	45
AP 100		90	90	50	35
AP 300		250	250	75	35
AR 900				250	130
AR 3000				300	180

MINUTES TO FULL CHARGE

AL 10V

AL 100

AL 300

AL 500



CHARGE

AK
SERIES

CHARGE

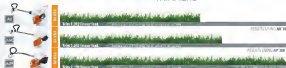
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WHAT CAN YOU DO ON A SINGLE CHARGE?

CHAIN SAWS



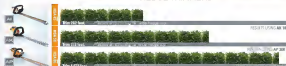
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Count petals, not sheep

Blossoms strewn across a wall, bed, and lamp, as if blown there by the wind?

Sweet dreams... BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • PHOTOGRAPH BY GEMMA COMAS

IT'S NOT HARD to imagine how ordinary this space might seem without tumbling petals and leaves. Or how flat it might look if their petals had stopped short of the headboard, never mind somewhere other than the lampshade.

The scheme begins with a serene base coat (like Benjamin Moore's First Paper Green). Then, get interesting with a burst of blossoms in three sizes colored a midnight blue (like Benjamin Moore's leafy Go-Got). Notice that under that blue is the same impression in a lighter shade to add dimension, letting the blossoms fall at a boundary-defying diagonal makes the whole picture quite alive.

The easiest way to do this is with oversize stencils. Ready-made ones like this are nice, but you can make your own: Find and trace three images and press the end onto an eraser foam before carving them out and gluing them to a block. Use a sponge dabber to apply latex paint in the stencils, starting with the lighter color and clearing the sponge between colors. After peeling an paper, move to the wall, then the headboard and lamp—add some cushions (available at craft stores) to run lines over fabric panels—sponging and varying the angles of the blossoms, as shown. Overlaying a thick blue on pale blue or white not only adds depth but also helps fill in any gaps. Use a small artist's brush to add centers to some of the blossoms or to sharpen any blurred outlines. Note that the effect is supposed to be exact—think more along the lines of *decoy*. ■



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Wall-mount pot fillers

Save time (and your back) with a foldable faucet that mixes trips from sink to cooktop and fills your largest pots with aplomb

BY KATE WOOD • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BURGH AVENUE AND ZACH DESART

UP DATING YOUR KITCHEN, or even just updating your backplash? Now's a good time to consider adding a pot filler. These handy fixtures need their own water supply, so if you're already running into your walls, it's a perfect opportunity to install one.

Pot fillers save the labor of carrying pots of water from sink to burner, so you'll need if you need to boil enough **FLUID** for a lobster feast or supply the pasta for a spaghetti dinner. And, since, like a pot filler saves everyday tasks, too. A gallon of water weighs more than 8 pounds, all those backpacks of basic broth and home soup add up to a surprising amount of lifting. Today, even lower-priced models are made with a brass body and ceramic valves—including the ones shown here and on the following pages—so this cook's luxury doesn't have to be a major splurge.

Here, 10 fabulous fillers.

1 > new twist
KORDEZ
Size 32 1/2" H x 27 1/2" L
Highlights: This polished nickel filler's spout can rotate 360°, providing extra clearance in a pinch. Cost: \$170, kolder.com

2 > dark star
POWERS INDUSTRIES
Size 31 1/2" H x 24 1/2" L
Highlights: Hints of copper peeking through. Its faucet is dark lacquer. Rotating spout. Cost: \$395, powers-industries.com



3

3 > off the hook

PLASTIC

Size: 9 1/2" H x 20 1/2" L
Highlights: This filler is a robust service fountain shepherd's crook spout, reminiscent of a Victorian era faucet, gives it vintage appeal.
Cost: \$179; trunks.com



4

4 > champagne taste

COPPER

Size: 10 1/2" H x 20 1/2" L
Highlights: This bubbly filler has fresh take on the when and of trend, the filler is made to resist scratches and stains.
Cost: \$194; delibabau.com



5

5 > high speed

STEEL

Size: 10 1/2" H x 21 1/2" L
Highlights: Able to fill at a rate of up to 50 gallons per minute or more than twice as fast as most pet fountains, which top out at 2.2 gallons per minute.
Cost: \$229; iroco.com



6

6 > in the black

COBALT

Size: 15 1/2" H x 20 1/2" L
Highlights: While the shape of the joints and handle look quite traditional, this pet filler's black satin finish gives it a modern feel.
Cost: \$199; iroco.com



7

7 > gold mettle

WATERWORKS

Size: 17" H x 23 1/2" L
Highlights: Details like the curved spout and powder-coated brass handle topped brass handle distinguish this French country inspired faucet.
Cost: \$1,892; waterworks.com



8



9

8 > brush up

BRISTON BRASS

Size: 10 1/2" H x 24 1/2" L
Highlights: This especially robust filler sports a vintage-style brushed-brass finish that won't show smudges.
Cost: \$149; bristonbrass.com



10

9 > shine on

BRASS

Size: 9 1/2" H x 20 1/2" L
Highlights: With a special flow of over 40 gallons per minute, this polished nickel style can make the most of larger vessels.
Cost: \$199; iroco.com

10 > penny wise

STAINLESS STEEL

Size: 9 1/2" H x 21 1/2" L
Highlights: Anti-clog compact when curled up against the wall, this copper colored filler still boasts a long neck.
Cost: \$199; iroco.com

Updated vanity nook for \$75

A thrifty homeowner turns to materials she has on hand to overhaul an awkward space. BY KATELIN HILL



BEFORE The sun-soaked garden setting paint job but still didn't reflect the aesthetics of the home.

AFTER The sophisticated mirror makeover is a far cry from the one that was giving the homeowners time to plan a bigger bath renovation.

IT'S EASY TO MAKE awkward spaces blend in with the rest of your house when you stick to using materials from your previous home-improvement projects. That's exactly what Ashley Meyer did to make the vanity area of her master bath, which is visible from the bedrooms, more cohesive with the rest of the Springfield, MO, home she shares with her husband and son. After looking up the minimal baseboards, Ashley grained the walls the same bright white as the bedroom and the vanity a dark slate gray, which she had left over from painting her kitchen cabinets. She installed brass hinges and pulls, playing off the

brass accents she used elsewhere in the house. Then Ashley designed a modern exposed-bath vanity to echo her dining room chandelier, using brass-hue she'd picked up during similar projects. She bought individual pieces—black sockets, brass tubing, and a black template—from a lighting supply store, finished them together, and added the wiring. In order to stay within her budget of \$100, finishing touches were borrowed from other rooms, with the exception of a new hand towel. Says Ashley, who blogs at budgethomeimproves.com, "Now the bath feels like an extension of the house, instead of an odd duck." ■

THE PROJECT TALLY

Painted the walls and trim white and the cabinets dark gray using leftover paint from other rooms in the house... **\$0**

Made a DIY light fixture by assembling parts from a lighting supply store... **\$41**

Upgraded the baseboards to measure 5 inches high to fit the left over from other rooms... **\$0**

Replaced the existing vanity hardware with brass hinges and pulls... **\$29**

Purchased some hand towel and soap and used other pieces already on hand... **\$5**

TOTAL \$75

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Shadow box

Tom Silva and Kevin O'Connor put together a custom case for displaying heirloom collectibles and curios.

BY THOMAS BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTHONY TIELU



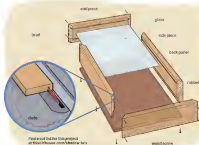
WIN IT!
There's a lot to be gained by taking the time to make a custom shadow box for your collection.

On display: 70th general contractor Tom Silva and 70th host Kevin O'Connor proudly present their latest project: a glass-fronted shadow box, filled with vintage objects such as those below. It's a design that's both safe and makes these items easy to admire.

PHYSICAL OBJECTS FROM OUR PAST have an unfortunate habit of ending up squandered away in the attic or basement, neglected and forgotten. With a glass-fronted shadow box, however, these collectibles can have a worthy display space, safe from dust and dirt, dainty fingers.

Here's a simple box that Tom and Kevin fashioned, literally, from pieces of an old salvaged fir door. Doors like this were often made from beautiful laser-fine wood with a tight, straight grain. When edged it turns a warm honey hue. For Tom, also made sure to leave behind uncomfortable chairs about the wood's origins. For the spots where the hinges were attached?

On the following pages, we'll show you how to cut down an old door and assemble that project. What, you'll find useful not for plugging holes and setting glass. Then, with any luck, you may uncover the right salvaged door at the right price, and after a few hours in your shop, you'll have a vintage shadow box of your own.



TOOLS

- circular saw with rip fence
- table saw
- random orbit sander
- knife
- miter saw
- spray adhesive
- bar and strap clamps
- 3/8" gauge brass nail
- 45°/45° miter and 90°/90° miter
- glass-cutter and gloves

MATERIALS

- salvaged door
- wood glue and hybrid glue
- sandpaper: 120 and 220 grit
- oil or wax finish
- back-splined end-free clamps
- 1/4-inch flat glass
- glass-mounting rail
- 3/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" brass nails
- No. 6 1" brads with crow's

FINISHED SIZE:

14 1/2" W x 20 1/2" L x 3 1/2" D

STEP-BY-STEP

Shadow box



1) Find an old door. A door that's like this door has a lot of character and a lot of history. It's a door that's been around for a long time. It's a door that's been around for a long time. It's a door that's been around for a long time.



2) Cut it up. Using a circular saw with a rip fence, or a miter saw with a steady grip, cut the door into strips. Cut the door into strips. Cut the door into strips. Cut the door into strips.



3) Clean off the old finish. Check for hidden screws. Then square up the sides of the stile with a table saw. Then the quickly shaved the old finish off the stile a faces with four flat cuts. It shows. That saved lots of sanding.

STEP-BY-STEP



4) Rabbit and dado For the deep board through the back, saw two more times to make it 1/2 inch by 1/2 inch wider in one corner. The box's bottom corner fits this rabbit. On the same face, finish from the side opposite the rabbit: use the saw to cut a 1/2-inch wide, 1/2-inch deep dado to hold the glass.



5) Sand Using a random orbit sander and 220-grit sandpaper, smooth all sides of the stile. Save the sandblast for the next step. Then sand the finish-off end face of the panel, as shown. Start with 180-grit sandpaper and finish with 220.



6) Plug the holes When a scrap piece of wood from the stile into stile narrow enough to fit into a hole left by the hand plane. Separate wood glue into the holes, insert the wedged stick, and slice it off flush with a knife, as shown. Use the sandblast from Step 5 to color the glue, as described in the Tip at right.

TIP



Making holes

• **Save the sandblast** To disprove plugged holes, use glue that will give a clear finish, rub some sandblast into a hole with your finger, as shown. The sandblast will fill the hole and color the glue. Save the sandblast for the next step.



7) Apply the finish Wipe the stile and panel clean with a tack cloth. Then, using a lint-free cloth, apply a penetrating finish to all sides of the stile and the rounded face of the panel. Here, Behr's Clear Coat Varnish is used. For the finish, wait 5 to 10 minutes for it to soak in, wipe up the excess, and let the cloth evaporate to prevent it from catalyzing too soon. The piece will be dry enough to handle in 30 hours.

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STEP-BY-STEP



12] Score the glass Using the box's back panel as a template, mark the glass with a felt tip marker. Trace the panel as a guide for the glass-cutter wheel. Push it on the center's wheel is centered on the marks. Now, wearing gloves, dip the wheel into the scoring oil and pull the cutter across the score along the panel's, as shown.



13] Score and split the glass Line up the score mark on the glass with the edge of a table. With gloves on, lift the glass where it overlaps the table and snap it straight down. The glass will snap at the score, leaving a clean straight edge. Repeat Steps 12 and 13 if needed. Then slide the cut sheet into the three-sided frame, as shown.



14] Attach the last side With the glass in place, glue the remaining end piece to the frame. Hold the panel in place with a strap clamp and a bar clamp, then shoot two brads on each side of both joints, as shown.

TIPS



Cutting glass

• **How it works** Glass cutters aren't actually real through glass. They score its surface with a tiny diamond-shaped wheel. That weakens the glass enough for it to break cleanly when it's snapped away from the score.

• **Lubricate steel wheels.** Glass cutters have either steel or carbide wheels. Steel wheels need to be lubricated with oiling oil before use to ensure that they make a clean, continuous score line. Glass cutters with carbide wheels need no lubrication.



15] Tighten the back panel Turn the box glass side down. Then drop in the back panel. Using a 1/4-inch nut and three evenly spaced Phillips screws, tighten the back, angled slightly into the box's frame. Each long side should have three holes; each short side should have two. Drive a screw into each angled hole. Because the glass in this box is fixed in place, you get to the inside by unscrewing the back. ■

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ask This Old House ▶

Q Can you explain the different types of sandpaper to me? I don't know which kinds to use for which purposes.

—PAIGEDEL TEMPE AZ

A Most sandpapers, sanding sponges, and belts use aluminum-oxide, the man-made version of the stuff that sapphires and rubies are made of. You can sand most surfaces with this type of grit. But if the abrasive is black, like the sanding sponge at left, then the grit is probably silicon carbide, a synthetic mineral that wears out quickly on hard wood. It's best used to hard-smooth finishes while lubricated with water.

—THE EDITORS

62

tips, tricks, and answers to your home-improvement questions

Photo: © iStockphoto.com / BILLY ARNOLD

Our cast of veteran experts



TOM SILVA
General Contractor



NORM ABRAM
Master Carpenter



RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumber and Heating Expert



ROGER COOK
Licensed Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR
Plum



"Boil-water" alerts, lead in water pipes, PCB contamination: I don't think the filter on my kitchen-sink faucet could do the job. Do I need a filter system for the entire house?

—SUSANLUCK PITTSFIELD MA

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES

You might be surprised to know that there are faucet-mounted filters that can remove lead, PCBs, many bacterial cysts such as giardia or cryptosporidium, and even pesticides and pharmaceuticals. If you just want to upgrade your existing faucet filter—your least expensive re-filtering option—then look for one certified to meet NSF/ANSI 53 and 401, the most stringent standards for removing heavy metals and trace contaminants from water.

The good thing about these point-of-use filters is that they partly serve only for drinking or cooking, not washing dishes and dishes, bathing babies, or irrigating the lawn. But you do have to be diligent about replacing filters fairly frequently—every 100 gallons or so.

For a less-intensive filtering setup, consider one that mounts under the sink. The extra space there means these point-of-use filters can be bigger, more specialized, and won't need changing as frequently. Most deliver water through a dedicated faucet. Look for filters that meet the 53 and 401 standards and that have a 0.75-gallon-per-minute (gpm) delivery rate through the faucet. That's not the high flow of a standard faucet, but it's 50 percent faster than 0.50 gpm filters.

If you want water that's chemically pure, with every possible contaminant removed, an under-sink, reverse-osmosis (RO) filter will do the job. Such purity does have its drawbacks, however: a high tap-front cost, expensive replacement filters, wasted water due to back-

Richard Trethewey inspects a top-of-the-line whole-house filter installed at the 19th TX Detroit project house in 2017. Photo: © iStockphoto.com / BILLY ARNOLD

DIY
SMARTS



Eye on the outside

I'd like to install security cameras outside, but the more research I do, the more confused I get. Can you help?

—TOM RIVKIN, NEW BEDFORD, MA

KIVIN O'CONNOR REP, BS: There have been huge improvements in outdoor security cameras in recent years, making them both easier to use and easier to install than the bulky cameras that had to be hooked to a security system and a service contract. The new generation of security cameras simply link to your smartphone, without the need for a monthly contract. But if you want specialized enhancements like continuous recording, optional subscriptions are available for about \$10 a month.

The biggest difference among these new cameras is where they get their power—free batteries or through a plugged-in cord. Battery-powered cameras can be mounted anywhere, but then you have to be diligent about changing or recharging the batteries if you want the camera to remain functional. That's not an issue with a corded camera, like the Nest Cam Outdoor (\$199, nest.com), shown above. You just need a covered GFCI-powered outdoor receptacle within 15 feet of where you want to mount it.

When comparing different outdoor cams, look for useful features such as night vision, high-definition resolution (the Nest Cam has 1080p HD), motion activation (so it's not constantly recording), and a microphone that allows you to listen and talk to people arriving at your home.

Whether camera you choose, mount it 7 to 10 feet high, overlooking a place that has high activity, such as the front door, the driveway, or the back door. Come to think of it, you'll probably need more than one camera to get all the coverage you need to feel safe.



Kyle O'Connor uses his smartphone to make sure his Nest Cam Outdoor is streaming video and that it's aimed correctly. Outdoor cameras are best placed under eaveshangs that keep them out of rain or other weathering elements.

hooking—about 3 to 5 gallons go down the drain for every gallon used—and the extra space taken up by its storage tank. Reverse RO filters work so slowly, the tank enables a faster flow of 3.50 gpm. Also, water that comes directly from an RO filter doesn't taste very good, so get a system with a remineralizer that puts calcium, magnesium, and potassium back into the filtered water before you drink it.

But if a point-of-use filter under the kitchen sink doesn't seem to offer enough protection, a whole-house filtering system certainly is an option, provided you have the budget to make it happen.

Before you begin, though, have your water tested. You want to know exactly what kinds of problems your water has so that the system can be customized to handle them. The first annual reports from your municipal water authority—assuming that's the source of your water—give a snapshot of the quality of the water leaving the treatment plant. But the water coming out of your tap may be picking up pollutants on its way from the plant. That's why it's important to gather water samples at your house. You can find a state-certified water-testing laboratory by calling 1-800-Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or going to epa.gov/whatsnew. Each year, I'm sorry to say, we see too

many complaints about whole-house systems, look for a few rate of at least 15 gpm, and find out how often filters need to be replaced and how much they will cost. Regular upkeep is the key to making these systems function the way they're supposed to. If you're not committed to that task, sign up for a service contract.

OUTDOOR CAMERAS
Just how much fun do they have at the Nest Cam Outdoor? It's not just a camera—it's a microphone too.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



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How to cut through metal lath and plaster
I have a bathroom leak, and a hole needs to be cut for the plumber. If not, it's a \$50 visit. If he cuts it, it's a \$300 visit. The problem is that the plaster walls are as hard as cement and reinforced with metal lath. What's the best way to cut through this reinforced wall?

—CHRISTOPHER LAMON, WILTON, CT

What is it?

- Rubber stand
- Pipe spacer
- Funnel
- Lock for extension cords

FOR THE
ASKING
ASK THE GUY

over access hole, no problem.
Before you start cutting, make sure you know what size the hole needs to be for the plumber to do the work. You really want to cut this hole once. You also need to know where the studs are, and whether pipes or wires are buried in the wall. Stud finders have a hard time seeing through this type of wall, so drill a hole with the hole saw and explore the lay-

out with a stiff wire and a flashlight.
Once you can block where you can safely cut, take a piece of cement board or drywall and make a square-cornered patch that's the size of the hole you want. Hold it up to the wall where the hole will be, and trace around it with a pencil. This ensures that the patch will match the hole perfectly. Also, draw a pair of marks across the top edge of the patch and onto the

wall. They'll show you how to orient the patch when you put it in.
Using your hole saw, make a hole just inside each corner of the box you traced on the wall. Now, holding the reciprocating saw as close as you can to the wall, insert the blade into a hole, and pull the trigger. Keep the saw close to the wall as you guide the blade along the line to the next hole; then have your angle measurer recheck, which can crack the surrounding plaster, and reduce the chance of making a wire or pipe that might have escaped notice.
After the plumbing is fixed, cut two 2x4 framing strips about 6 inches longer than the height of the hole. Insert one strip into the hole, hold it vertically against the

back side of the plaster, an inch or two from the side of the hole and secured by a horizontal. Fasten the strip with two screws driven through the wall, making the strips slightly below the surface. Do the same with the other strip.
These steps provide the backing to screw the patch into place. Because the plaster is likely to be thicker than the patch, you'll probably have to trim the strips or the patch to bring its surface flush with the wall.
When the patch is ready to be inserted, align the marks, attach the patch, and apply fiberglass mesh tape to the edges. That's your insurance against future cracking. Then smooth the joint or two of joint compound.

How to tile over tile
I'm going to install 18-by-18-inch ceramic floor over tiles existing in the 1950s. The old tiles are secure, but do I need to use a special primer or tile set to set the new ones?

—JIM PELLEY, WAU MA, MA

MARK PERKINS REPLIED: Have you already determined that there will be enough headroom after the new tile goes in? In some basements, a loss of even 1/4 inch or so could present a problem.

Mark Perkins is the owner of Perkins Tile in Wellesley, MA, and has laid tile in dozens of The Old House TV project houses.

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WORK.COM



It's good that the old tiles are well securely attached to the bathroom slab, a solid, stable base is essential for any tiling project. Even so, take a few minutes to give each tile a tap with a rubber mallet, just to make sure that none of them are loose. Mark the ones that make a ringing sound, and if there are only a few of them, chip them out and fill the recess with thinset. But if there are a lot of loose tiles, you should probably remove all of them and start fresh. Also, make note of any tiny cracks that indicate that the slab has shifted. You'll deal with those later.

Now, if the old tilework is staying in place, roughen the surface with 40-grit sandpaper to ensure a good grip for the new tile. A rented floor

What is it?

● **Funnel**
The rings of the polypropylene Clip-on Speed Fit onto both quarter and gallon containers eliminating splashing or pouring drops \$1.29, warthco.com



sander can quickly cover large areas. Use a belt sander or random orbit sander along the edges where the floor sander can't reach. Next, remove any loose or peeling grout, either with a mastic scraping tool fitted with a grout attachment, or by hand, with a carbide toothed scoring tool. Vacuum up the grit, wash the surface with a no-rinse cleaner like

Spic and Span, and let it dry.

While it's drying, use a long straightedge or level to check the floor for dips and humps. It doesn't have to be level, but it should be flat. Otherwise, you'll have a back of a sore getting the edges of your 18-by-18 tiles to line up. The Tile Council of North America (TCNA) specifies that tiles larger than 15

inches on a side require a substrate that doesn't vary more than 1/8 inch over 10 feet. If your existing floor meets that criterion, and has no cracks, you can start tiling.

If only a few low spots need to be filled, use a cementitious floor patch that can be troweled to a feather edge. But if lots of filling is required, and the floor is fairly level, then mix and pour a cement-based, self-leveling underlayment over the entire floor. In its name implies, this type of underlayment will flow to the lowest level, and the more a floor slopes, the more underlayment you'll need to pour. For those areas where you don't want the underlayment to go, put up cleats using 2x4s and construction adhesive. The big payoff for all this

extra effort will be a perfectly flat and level surface, which will make laying your tiles much easier.

Now to the interlocking web cracks, if there are any, in the original floor. The way to deal with a crack isolation membrane, such as Bonk's GoldFlex (bonk.com), which stops cracks from propagating through to the new tiles.

Once all the dips and cracks have been addressed, tiling can commence. This is a job for polymer-modified thinset, the kind you mix with water. Ready-mix mixes have no place here. For your large tiles, I recommend that you butter them on the back of each one before setting it into the thinned-out floor. That way, there'll be no worries about tiles coming loose.

One last thing: Laying the edges of a big tile won't be easy, but giving extra attention to them is critical. You don't want a floor plagued with misaligned edges, a.k.a.lippage. Using edge-aligning devices like Tiscan Snap Clips (tiscanclipping.com) can be a big help here because they eliminate lippage, and speed up installation.

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

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Norm's tricks of the trade



The old door trim and baseboards that I've pried off the walls are full of nails. But when I tried hammering them out from the back side, their heads splintered the surface. Should I cut them off instead?

—ANNEY JOHNSON BLANCKENBURG, IA



A I'm glad to hear that you're trying to save your trimwork. It's next to impossible to find new trim that matches the thickness and profile of the original material. But salvaged trim typically has lots of nails with slightly recessed nailheads hidden under putty. And, as you discovered, when a recessed head is backed out, even if it's a small finishing nail, it will take some wood with it.

The trick to keeping your trim intact is to pull the nail out from the back side of the trim. The head will splinter that side on its way out, but that has no effect on the trim's appearance.

Aly's favorite tool for this task is a pair of long-handled pliers—commonly known by the brand name Channellocks. Just grip the nail on the back side of the trim as close to the wood as you can get, and rock the tool back on its curved upper jaw. If a long nail doesn't come out on the first pull, simply reposition the jaws on the shaft near the wood and rock the tool back again. The pliers' long handles provide more than enough leverage to remove even the most stubborn nails easily and evenly. ■

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/ANDREW HARRIS



THE INSIDE STORY

Meet some members of our new club for TOH superfans



MATTHEW DORMAN • Rockford, VT • Interior architect

An interest in architecture is a childhood trait for Matthew Dorman, 30, best left watching *This Old House* with his dad, today watching old episodes "brings back wonderful memories." He and his wife hope to buy a house one day, but for now Matthew justifies tool addictions while building his 2-year-old daughter a dollhouse.



JOSH SHERICK • Greasboro, NC • Arts and events coordinator

Having access to all the episodes of *This Old House* lets Josh Sherrick, 37, catch the "dissect Norm" action that he loves. Josh says that he and his wife suffer from "multiple project syndrome." He has three projects under way: adding electricity to the backyard, redoing the master bath, and adding a door to the kitchen.



YSA HAMMOND • Worthington, OH • Fiber artist

As she adds insulation, cork floors, and new windows and doors to an old shed to create a workshop, Ysa Hammond, 38, gets a hand from her 3-year-old son. He is brandishing tools around to help on projects even she isn't learned to craft. For ideas, Ysa binge-watches *This Old House* or tunes into the Live Q&As.



FRANK ANETTA • Clatskanie, OR • Engineer

Turning to the expert, advice offered during Live Q&As has helped Frank Anetta, 43, on his outdoor projects, which include planting blue spruce shrubs and grass-covered beds and creating an area for his sons. Arbor Day describes him as an all-around guy. Frank also recently repainted the marlin on a 100-foot-long steel wall.



KEN LA BONTA • Seattle, CA • Planning and business executive

Access to Live Q&As and previous seasons of *This Old House* has given Ken LaBonta, 66, many ideas for his complete remodel now in its 18th year. Re-siding, painting, and landscaping are the current projects, viewed by his family as standard operating procedure. "They'd be worried if something wasn't torn apart!"



CINDY BECKNELL • Billerica, MA • Graphic designer

With an 2004 *This Old House*, Cindy Becknell, 65, appreciates the advice that the *This Old House* experts share during Live Q&As. She is putting the tips into action on her kitchen remodel, which has included such old-house challenges as dealing with a heavy trap door to the basement. "We are almost finished!"



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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

For just a bit longer, it'll be warm enough to leave the door half-open on a sunny day. So pull up a chair and listen to what your walls are trying to tell you.



PHOTO: JAMES WHITE/STYLING: JESSICA WYATT



STONE, TIMBER, AND TENACITY

A handsome centuries-old house with a history of haphazard improvements meets its match in a family of determined DIY'ers

By Deborah Baldwin • Photographs by John Gruen
Produced by Nicole Esposito-Polly • Styling by Anna Molvik

All hands on deck......one pair holding the brother's ankles?

When Kim Kimble and Tom McEnire looked up one day during the endless renovations of their family's 18th-century relic, they were pleased to see their two grown sons sitting stony-faced at the roof. It had been years since the whole house was laid out under way, they were all tired of living in chaos, and

wood had gone out. Everyone, please help!

Kim, who had done time on the roof herself, remembers the double take when she looked down closely. One of the boys had decided to nail a bracket in place by leaning himself over the ridge—headfirst.

Not so worry, Mom. His brother was holding his firm.

From the beginning, this renovation has

OPPOSITE: The homeowners commissioned a dining-room mural in the 19th-century shaker style. It tells the story of the house as it evolved over 220-plus years. ABOVE: The house is a favorite spot for board games and even serious action during local gatherings known as Happy Merry Thanksgiving.





been a family affair, starting with the mother. Kim and Tom first took a hard look at the place, a charming big-of-homes-in-bustle New Paltz, New York. They hadn't planned on it, but were visiting former neighbors with one of their four kids when the house, called Therswood, "reached out to us," Kim says—despite its long stint as a college town crash pad. (Response of said kid: "You're buying that!")

Of course fixing it up would be hard, but the couple had lots of energy and the house had lots of bedrooms, so they figured they could camp in one area while making repairs in another, doing the most far by bit, so that way you're half, over time.

A lot of time, as it turns out.

Tom, an airline pilot, was game to improve his DIY skills, and Kim, who owns the bar, learned to love working on a real guy, way up for the challenge on it. He's good, after all, to bring a place that has at times been a serious consider for local job status.

Despite a round in historical documents, Kim traced the house back to the town's founding settlers, known as the "Dutch"—a dozen French Huguenots fleeing old-world Catholics and the incoming new-world Dutch by making their own land grab along the Hudson River. After clearing it in what is now downtown, the men ultimately divided up the rest of their vision among their descendants,

ADDITION An unusual kind of stone and wood frame the house provides 1800. During its latest renovation, the house gained three bedrooms, two porches, and a two-story wood-frame addition.

ADDITION The addition built a tiny size kitchen with oak flooring, stainless-steel countertop, and two dishwasher. Note: the original is a layer of stone compound on the driveway gives the look of stone.

RIGHT Tom Mullins and Kim Kirtley are on a porch with an original Dutch door. The sitting with loaded driveway and walked away to make it look old.



FLOOR PLANS

Originally 3,327 square feet with six bedrooms, two baths, and a kitchen in what is now the game room, the house gained 1,156 square feet—a kitchen with dining space, a mudroom area, and a half bath before a master suite in a side addition. On the second floor, two bedrooms became a sitting room, and a bath was rebuilt. The first floor bath was also rebuilt; an old door relocated to create a guest suite, and the door between the dining room and library was shifted for better traffic flow. The house also took on two front porches and a screened porch.





had failed," Tom says, "and the rear wall was four inches out of plumb." The sill beams that sat on the foundation had to be replaced, and reinforced. Then the original structural supports were reinforced with a juggle of concrete piers and pressure-treated posts in the basement.

The main foundation had to be repositioned before Tom could put in gutters and a French drain. And the house still needed dry-packing out. Refurbishing gave way to faced rag, with no handrails in the bathroom and attic and requests to ceilings and floors to reduce the need for wall-hugging cucumber.

Plaster was patched and preserved, even as chaises fell here and chairs eating joints were exposed; two baths were added, and an addition was grafted onto a gable wall. Necessaries's plan was to have the addition wrap back, but Kim made a case for extending and remodeling to be flush front and back, and Kennedy made a work, pulling a 1,146-square-foot wing that balances the 18th-century wood-frame original at the other gable end.

Adding an alcove for the old kitchen to become a game room. Another room became the library, with a painted, period-style "bed nook" (a.k.a. Murphy

ABOVE: Dark pine and mahogany stained ceilings in the living room set off restored plaster walls that were finished with a faded stone stain. **PAINT:** Calhoun Paints. **REPAIRS:** Rite (new) Glen roof gables; Benjamin Moore's Newblaze Green.

bed). The TV hides out in the living room.

The addition replaced an old screened porch, which itself replaced an "out kitchen" that can be seen in a 1906 mapshot. Because the addition has a second floor, Kennedy had to work to level roof-line, but the payoff was a bonus room upstairs and a sunny kitchen with a coolfire accompaniment, walled-height ceiling, open to a gathering spot large enough for informal dining and a foldout sofa.

"Our goal was to sleep 13," says Kim. "When I was growing up, every year siblings and spouses and kids would descend on my mother and mother-in-law for what we called Happy Merry Thanksgiving—two holidays rolled into one. After he died and she moved to a smaller place, we wanted to do it here."

The couple put out welcome mats in the form of two front porches, one leading to a mudroom area in the addition. A new screened porch felt like a no-brainer, especially one within reach of the kitchen.

The bonus room began as a playroom for the two youngest kids, then became a dance studio, complete with wall-mounted barre, for a daughter who taught ballet. When she flew the nest, Kim and Tom turned the studio and an alcove into their master bedroom



ABOVE: The guest room once served as a dress shop and before that was a formal parlor. The side bedroom was an bedroom for the mother-in-law.

LEFT: The guest bath was gutted and refitted for two people. **REPAIRS:** Rite (new) Glen roof gables; Benjamin Moore's Newblaze Green.

and back, leaving their first-floor bedroom for guests. Of which they have plenty. Thierwood has become so popular among friends that Kim and Tom have started staying over during sessions inspired by *The North Star Hour*. When the house is full, there's spillover space in the barn—usually, the house caretaker with a barn, and naturally, there's impossible four-supper couldn't leave it alone.

This project got done about four years ago, at which point you might assume the couple's labor was over. But not quite. Next came replacing the attic, buying a new porch, and rebuilding the porch that also came with the house. Tom plans to go to see "lost" framing touch—reclaiming a pile of old shingles—soon, early next year if not this weekend.

Time that's passed, so far? Almost 13 years, or long enough for one of those roof-shingling sons to have a son and a daughter of his own.

Lately, when they come to visit they don't have to sleep on the floor. "I'm excited about creating memories here with my grandchildren," says Kim of the house whose needs and joys over time. "It's our hobby and passion—and it also happens to be a great place to get her out growing up."



ALL
ABOUT

Interior Wall Cladding

From shiplap to salvaged barn board, simple wood wall treatments are making a comeback, giving rooms a style and texture boost, plus a dose of rugged charm. Here's how to choose and use them. BY KATELIE HILL

WOOD WALLS HAVE A LONG HISTORY. In early colonial times, boards and shingles that skinned over a house's skeleton often formed the interior surfaces as well. Planks made up the partition walls. Later, vertical boards were added to walls, often with a decorative head or chamfered V along their edges. Walls that were not plastered were often paneled. While the wealthy had fancy woodwork, most homes featured flat-backed claddings similar to those used on the exterior—usually boards with interlocking “lapped” or tongue-and-groove joints to keep out water and cold winds. When factory millwork became available in the Victorian era, decorative beaded boards routinely covered walls in utility areas such as lofts and baths.

Simple, practical, and attractive, such wall claddings are back in demand once more. Lumberyards and home centers are offering products that ease installation, and designers are specifying them everywhere from formal manors to industrial spaces to simple cottage interiors. Coming up here and on the following pages, TDW helps sort through the options.

“SHIPLAP HOUSE.” We named for this 1885 shed addition to an early 18th-century house in Annapolis, Maryland, showcases a well-preserved historical example of the flared, flat beveled siding. At the time, shiplapboards were the norm: their beveled profile designed to shed water. Shiplap boards fasten into locking joints along their edges to seal out the weather.



Painted pale blue, horizontal shiplap gives this farmhouse bedroom a serene feeling.

VITALS

HOW MUCH? Individual boards can cost under \$1 per linear foot for unfinished pine and up to \$20 per linear foot for the reclaimed stuff. A standard 4-by-8-foot MDF beveled panel runs about \$30, while individual beaded pine boards go for about \$2 per linear foot, unfinished.



DIY OR HIRE A PRO?

A good project for the experienced DIYer. The biggest challenges are starting at a perfectly level (or plumb) and working around obstacles such as windows and doors. Doing a ceiling? You may want to go pro.

WHERE TO BUY IT?

Home centers sell a variety of manufactured wood and MDF products, sometimes in kits. You'll find higher quality wood-cladding at lumber yards. The latter may be a special order.

HOW LONG-LASTING?

As long as walls cladding has been properly installed with sufficient room for expansion, it should last the life of the house. MDF may be more susceptible to dings and moisture damage.

Pick a style

Here's a look at some of the most popular types of cladding—how simple or detailed the profiles are, and what type of finish you choose, all influence the overall effect.



SHIPLAP actually refers to the type of joint, rather than a distinctive cladding treatment. Shiplap-style boards are rabbeted along their sides to interlock for a tight seal. Today it's common to have them milled with a "bevel gap" of about 1/8 inch along the top edge to create a shadow line that highlights the individual boards. Of fun: often milled shiplap MDF strips are the wall's top layer, with a second layer of shiplap applied over it to support the shiplap.



BOARD-AND-BATTEN is traditionally built as a series of vertical boards, joined with strips of batten or battens, covering the joints. When it comes to color, the batten is often painted. Today plywood may be used instead, with 2x4s installed every 16 inches, covering joints as they occur. A popular DIY choice is to use vertical boards in a variety of widths and the shiplap with a bevel joint.



BEADBOARD is traditionally "shiplap" with 2x4-inch wide shiplap of wood with beveled edges joined along the longer side and a matching beveled (or shiplap) edge on the grooved side to hide the joint. These fit together to form a continuous wall covering. Today wider planks with flange beads, and plywood MDF sheets without a bead ridge, replicate the look, while saving installation time.



DROP SIDING is a shiplap style of shiplap typically featuring a joint along the top edge. Boards are staggered and water shed. Shows off that curve and you have a clean shiplap. Because it is a full shiplap siding, it really makes the transition to exterior use. Outside, you can add a bead along the bottom or any other custom detail that you like.



V-GROOVE boards are milled with chamfered edges on both sides, forming a V shape where the flange and groove for shiplap joints come together. V-groove planks is varying widths were a common wall cladding in colonial era homes, often given a white paint finish. Like shiplap, V-groove shiplap may be used today for their modern simplicity. Available in wood, MDF, and synthetic materials for various applications.



RUSTIC PLANKING can be anything from beveled to a perfect wood to a common mill run to look old through a finishing process. Planks can be milled up with little to no space and to end, but pay attention to stagger the joints. Boards may not have mill edges or a consistent grain, and it's a good idea to use a consistent grain, and it's a good idea to use a consistent grain, and it's a good idea to use a consistent grain.

CHOOSE YOUR MATERIAL

Most cladding is made from one of these, here's what to consider with each option.



WOOD/PLYWOOD

You can find solid wood tongue and groove or shiplap boards in a range of species, from budget-friendly pine and poplar to pricier woods like hardwood cedar and teak. Since wood expands and contracts over time, it's critical that it's primed to move, but maintenance it may be heavier than manufactured products. Solid needs proper fastening and ideally another pair of hands to install. Thin plywood sheets milled with bead or V details, usually given a flat finish, are more stable, less pricey, and go up fast.

FINISHING TIPS

Ask for a stain grade clear wood that's smooth and free of knots for the natural look, or a stain that doesn't completely hide the wood grain. Often, a stained wood shiplap is, but it's not a good idea to stain wood that's not a stain grade. Clear wood shiplap is, but it's not a good idea to stain wood that's not a stain grade. Clear wood shiplap is, but it's not a good idea to stain wood that's not a stain grade.



SALVAGED WOOD

Reclaimed wood boards can be found in a variety of species and dimensions, whether rescued from old barns or factory floors. The wood is unstained in character and shows its own history, but it's not a good idea to use it as a primer. Salvaged boards should be cleaned, planed so they lie flat on the wall, and ideally kiln dried by a professional. They may warp. Kiln drying also eliminates any insect infestation. May be prefinished and/or milled into any style of wall cladding you want.

FINISHING TIPS

Reclaimed wood is a good candidate for a distressed or weathered paint finish, or a stain that doesn't completely hide the wood grain. Often, a stained wood shiplap is, but it's not a good idea to stain wood that's not a stain grade. Clear wood shiplap is, but it's not a good idea to stain wood that's not a stain grade.



FIBERBOARD

Milled sheets of MDF are a popular choice among DIYers, since they are budget-friendly, and manufacturers are able to achieve a convincingly bead or groove. MDF is also more stable, doesn't warp, but it's not a good idea to use it as a primer. Salvaged boards should be cleaned, planed so they lie flat on the wall, and ideally kiln dried by a professional. They may warp. Kiln drying also eliminates any insect infestation. May be prefinished and/or milled into any style of wall cladding you want.

FINISHING TIPS

Smooth MDF takes paint beautifully, and should be sealed. It typically comes prefinished, so it's a good idea to use a primer. Salvaged boards should be cleaned, planed so they lie flat on the wall, and ideally kiln dried by a professional. They may warp. Kiln drying also eliminates any insect infestation. May be prefinished and/or milled into any style of wall cladding you want.

INSTALLATION ADVICE

Things to know before you begin, whether you DIY or hire a pro.

Wood needs room to move > Always leave at least a 1/4-inch gap for expansion along all four edges of a wood-clad wall. That means above the baseboard, where it meets the ceiling, and at both corners where the adjacent walls begin. **Construction adhesive is your friend** > It can provide up to 30 percent of the bond, so you need fewer nails. With lightweight material, it may be all you need. **Start with a flat surface** > On uneven plaster or masonry walls, begin by hanging a grid of strapping, shimming as needed to make a completely flat surface. Nail vertical boards to horizontal furring strips or plywood. **The first board must be level, or plumb** > Don't rush installing that first board; if it isn't level (or plumb), you run the risk of every piece after it being crooked. If walls aren't plumb or floor's level, you may need to scribe the board to fit.



Wet-area options

What to use when moisture is an issue

On bathroom and even kitchen sink walls, wood planks and plywood tiles do stand up to moisture better than standard MDF, which can swell with water. Vinyl beadboard made for wet areas is convenient, though painting it can help. Solid-surface versions made for bath and shower enclosures are too costly to cover full walls. While there is water-resistant MDF, still better to choose solid-lamk Plaster's panels to stick with wood when it will soak get wet. Any wood cladding will fare fine with a coat of paint or water-based polyurethane, he says. A new product with plaster-based polymer-laminate only. The resin isn't lightweight and easy to work. Its expensive. Impervious to water, and doesn't tell you. From about \$2 per linear foot. bonfennec.com for stores

DIY MADE EASIER

Off the shelf products save time, money and installation headaches. Here are a few to consider



PREFINISHED PINE These shiplap boards are a contrast to the natural wood grain. The boards are 5/8" thick, 4" wide, and 1/2" deep. They are made of pine and are prefinished with a clear coat. They are sold in 10' lengths. www.homedepot.com



PREFAB PANELS These are locking wood panels that are made of pine. They are 1/2" thick, 4" wide, and 1/2" deep. They are made of pine and are prefinished with a clear coat. They are sold in 10' lengths. www.homedepot.com



PLANK KIT The plank kit is made of pine and is prefinished with a clear coat. It is made of pine and is prefinished with a clear coat. It is sold in 10' lengths. www.homedepot.com



PREFAB SHIP LAP These are locking wood panels that are made of pine. They are 1/2" thick, 4" wide, and 1/2" deep. They are made of pine and are prefinished with a clear coat. They are sold in 10' lengths. www.homedepot.com

Design ideas

There's more than one decking to suit any space. It's all in how you work it

1 > COTTAGE APPEAL White before, pop against sunny yellow walls, adding texture and dimension, and accentuating high ceilings. Running a couple of horizontal planks across them to make the stripes. Similar to shaver "1" 4" x 10" poplar. www.homedepot.com

2 > BOLD ACCENT This feature wall of custom milled shiplap shiplap picks a lot of design punch. Though shiplap is often considered rustic, this is a more modern look. Similar to shaver "1" 4" x 10" poplar. www.homedepot.com

3 > AGED PATINA This feature wall is a happy accident. The homeowners regretted painting the natural log cabin planks, and started replacing with a poplar. They liked the old wood look so much. They added glue to glue it in place. Similar to shaver "1" 4" x 10" poplar. www.homedepot.com

4 > REFINED PINE Tongue and groove boards milled with two boards. Making a more elegant look. Similar to shaver "1" 4" x 10" poplar. www.homedepot.com

5 > SLEEK LOOK A smooth face glass medium plank is a more sophisticated look, as it is a solid color like gray and blue. Using these on a wall creates an eye-catching focal point. Similar to shaver "1" 4" x 10" poplar. www.homedepot.com

6 > OVERHEAD UPGRADE Expanding the deck into the ceiling is a bold move. Its direction is horizontal, but the structural timber. Beams covering the ceiling are a shiplap panel pattern. Similar to shaver "1" 4" x 10" poplar. www.homedepot.com



PRO TIPS

Design advice for how to use wall cladding to best advantage

GO WIDE When using shiplap and 1/2" groove design, consider the upper edge. Deanna suggests shiplap with 12 inch wide grooves. If you use a 1/2" groove, she suggests using a 1/2" groove. She suggests using a 1/2" groove. She suggests using a 1/2" groove.

EXPLOIT OPTICAL ILLUSIONS As a general rule, run the planks vertically. If you run them horizontally, they will look like a wall. If you run them vertically, they will look like a wall. If you run them vertically, they will look like a wall.

MIX AND MATCH WITH CAUTION When mixing styles of cladding to create a look, it's important to mix them. It's important to mix them. It's important to mix them.

LET THEM WORK HARD If you use wall cladding in a room, it's important to let them work hard. It's important to let them work hard. It's important to let them work hard.



THIS PAGE: The living room's original white oak trim came with layers of early gray paint. The homeowners stripped it and refinished a matching mantel.

RIGHT: The 1926 Craftsman fireplace proved so popular, appeal with a smart new look. Its gracefully tapered columns are echoed by other improvements made.



Going with the Grain

A meticulous reno brings out the beauty in a 1925 Craftsman, from its quarter-sawn oak to its built-in charm

By Deborah Baldwin

Photographs by Gricley + Graves

Produced by Nicole Esposito-Polly

Styling by Kelly Shaffer

Let early adopters rush headlong into a world where everything, including tonight's dinner, is controlled by an app. Sam and Kathleen, owners of a 92-year-old house with dreadfully old-fashioned fittings, will be busy enjoying the tactile delights of passing another old goal: Indeed push button switches that go-spring! before basking a space in the glow of period-style lighting. "It's a trip back to my childhood," Sam says. "This character and the feeling you get—it reminds me of the warm, cozy haven my friends had when I was growing up."

Let us think he is some modern-day Van Winkle for whose race and progress mean nothing, that is the sixth house



compelled them to preserve and restore. Updating the kitchen meant adding style-appropriate white cabinetry, while opening up the room and installing modern appliances, of course.

The house would not be there at all if Kathleen hadn't been walking around the neighborhood one spring day some years ago and noticed "this little white cottage with an odd, underlined front porch half buried by an overgrown garden." At the time, they were busy raising two kids and renovating house No. 3, another ready 1920s find that happened to be nearby. But Kathleen stopped long enough to spot a small pond through the ragged undergrowth, surrounded by rhododendron and hawthorn, oak, and white pine trees.

The whole lovely, neglected scene reminded her of *The Secret Garden*, one of her favorite books. "It had a jester house around it, and that made it even more secret," she now recalls.

If you know the book, you know why she could see walk away. Says Sue, "She was slowly building a house for us there." That will be the house we return to, she said. And, right, it thought—we had just finished reconstructing the one we were in! But I did want to take more of the garden...."

When the two met in high school, in a town near



ABOVE LEFT The master bedroom's spacious window has a tiny new cat bed below it. Big Denick Service, Nickerson Lamp, Red paint Sherwin Williams & White floors.

ABOVE RIGHT The house came with only one full bath, which the couple enlarged with a shower winged from a second bathroom. Floor and walls: French Linon. Red paint: Sherwin Williams. Night French Gray.

RIGHT Homeowners Kathleen and Sue sit on the new porch.



Floor Plan

The one-story house gained 390 square feet during the renovation, totaling 1,450, with the addition of a mudroom, a sitting room, guest room in what was formerly a detached garage, and a finished basement (not shown). The homeowners also replaced a garage with a front porch, expanded kitchen to the dining room, and remodeled the new master bath.



he and Kathleen have owned and upgraded. Saw's an emergency room doctor with a seriously stern demeanor, Kathleen's a registered nurse who understands cancer drugs, and together they make a formidable home-improvement team with strong opinions and sophisticated taste.

"We do this for fun, not money, and we're lucky if we break even," Kathleen says with a laugh. "It's our word idea of a hobby. We start zoning around ideas and the next thing we know we're at Home Depot!"

When they bought their current four-apartment Cleveland suburb of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, they were not interested in housing up or building a two-story addition in back. Yes, they did think it might be nice to enhance the view from the kitchen sink. And the house had a red oak porch (which didn't really use it as a front porch. But things they liked about the house, like its computer age and Craftsman style,

ABOVE LEFT Custom quarter-sawn white oak cabinets and refrigerator panels wrap up the new kitchen. The brickwork exemplifies demolition. Paint: Light Rembrandt. Sink: Blanco. Microwave: Kenmore.

ABOVE RIGHT The 11-level built-in between the dining room and kitchen cleverly frames the view from the table. Quartz are the vinyl backsplash over the range, but none of the dishes bear the sink. Artist: French Linon. Chandelier: Arco. Chandelier.

Kitchen

01. Bosch
Outstanding with My Way Back
• BOSCH

Just when you thought there was no way to science an existing fridge, along comes a pull-down third shelf you love at top drawer model that offers more headroom. From \$1,099. bosch.com

02. No Wiggle Bane Cabinet Pullout
• HARDWARE RESOURCES

It takes tough hardware to make a pull-out so stable it can handle canned goods without shaking. So stand pull it out the way. Four

widths, face frame and frameless styles. From \$395. hardwareresources.com

03. Danostor i-Light Pendant • HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE

One part farmhouse, one part factory, this fits in anywhere. Butlers or Bunsen (shown) and German Steel. \$339. houseofantiquehardware.com

04. 7 Slot Digital Tablet Holder Block
• CHICAGO CUTLERY

Stick your favorite recipes in this wood block and park your smart device, too. It

you can see the recipe while mashing the onions. Gadget not included. \$70. chicago-cutlery.com

05. Delta Chair • CREAT & EAT

This stool is more than just a stool. It comes in unexpected finishes like black-enamel (shown). Making it one of the most stylish seats at the table. \$149. creatandeat.com

06. Ultimate Faucet Filter • PUB

This blue bulb snags any easy, unpleasant way to remove lead and other contaminants from drinking water, sends a signal

when its filter needs replacing. Just make sure it's compatible with your faucet. \$45 per can. pub.com

07. Crowtown Sink with Water Deck • ELKAY

It's got a perching hole for a faucet in that beautiful new countertop—this double-basin stainless steel undermount, 32 inches wide, comes with a built-in, accommodating deck and perforated holes. \$975. elkay.com

08. 72-Inch Counter-Depth French Door Refrigerator • JENN-AIR

A black-wireless box brings a beautiful, contemporary

design, dual climate controls and more, cools your salmon steaks and ice cream. Sides in glass like a bottle, no top overhead. \$4,399. jennair.com

09. Darlana Medium Linear Lantern • GIECH LIGHTING

For a glowing spot in soul or a dramatic touch, here's a linear-style, channel-fer feature that's 42 inches wide. Choose from three finishes—Polished Nickel, Aged Iron, or this one. Solid brass and start pouring the wine. \$1,050. giclighting.com

10. Andalusian Tile • WALLS ZANGER

For a look that plays delicacy off strength, take a wall of French square terracotta tiles. This color of unglazed tile substitutes for all similar surfaces. From \$20 per square foot. wallszanger.com

11. Matte-Touch 36-In. Made Stone • CAMERA

You'd love before marble or granite to get this look, and honed stone needs TLC—unlike this matte quartz, which comes in 341 designs and will not show \$45 per square foot. camera.com

12. Atlas Faucet with Pull-Down Spray • BLANCO

This sleek, well-priced faucet has a pull-down spray and comes in polished chrome, polished or stainless steel. Its 300-inch height makes it a good choice for stands. From \$275. blancoamerica.com

13. 10-Speed Hand Mixer • KRUPS

It's not white wedding cakes, get a stand mixer. Otherwise, crush for this heavyweight hand mixer with 10 speeds, a quiet DC motor, whisk, and a 350-watt motor. \$30. krups.com

14. Watercooler Collection • FRIGID

Maybe your open shelves need a second look—or just get the function of Pyrex glass bottles and serving pieces and see it all together. \$199. From \$7.99. pyrex.com

15. Glass Canopy Storage Hood
Model 1136 • STAINLESS STEEL

Great ventilation doesn't have to be bulky. This flip-open broiler blends in with cabinetry and stacks up mode and shows it the side of 680 cubic feet per minute. \$609. stainlesssteel.com

16. Ashby Pulls

• **AMUSEA**
Deep drawer full of heavy-gauge metal gear from partner, instantly tug pull with period style. It comes in six finishes and will fit existing screw holes 3 or 4 inches wide. \$25. amusea.com

17. 36-Inch Electric Single Wall Oven with IQ Touch Controls
• **ELECTROLUX**

No preheating, a built-in clean—plus, “air bake” mode. Two fans and calibrated temps allow vacuum-picked delicacies cook very slowly. Or just used a kabob when it’s done, the oven automatically kicks to warm. \$2,269. electroluxappliances.com

**18. 36-Inch Induction Cooking**

• **BLANCO**
Best of both worlds: 18 settings and a burner so potent it hard-boils eggs in 10 minutes. Best of both worlds: 18 settings and a burner so potent it hard-boils eggs in 10 minutes. Best of both worlds: 18 settings and a burner so potent it hard-boils eggs in 10 minutes. \$2,499. blanco.com

19. Transform Countertop Overlays
• **CALDESSTONE**

Keep the countertops you have, and let anyone make them within 100 yards. Overlay. No demolition, only the challenge of choosing among 12 stone look-finishes. From \$50 per square foot installed. cadesstone.com

**20. Concrete Lustrous Whitecast**

• **GRACE**
The lever handles on this 1.3-liter-per-minute faucet mimic AGS, complete with silky-smooth moves, will please all. Inchrome (shown) or brushed nickel. From \$329. grace.us

21. 48-Inch Meliss Farmhouse Sink Vanity

• **SIGNATURE HARDWARE**
Who let the farmhouse sink out of the kitchen? The same person who incorporated it into a granite-topped 48-inch vanity with four feet, beveled panels

and soft shoe hinges. From \$1,400 (faucet not included). signaturehardware.com

22. BASICS Tub
• **MODERN SINKS**

A compact 55 inches long and 32 inches wide, this 40-gal number has a beveled edge detailing. Owners of small spaces can also opt for a quick-connect drain (sold \$300). From \$2,256. modernsinks.com

23. Real Rain

• **KOHLER**
Rain showerheads don't always deliver: half the cooling report, equivalent. Stay 13 inches into your control the size of the shower. Or your face doesn't have to get soaked. From \$2,150. kohler.com

24. Grabber Sink

• **BKA**
This countertop cutie—the level is about 11 inches wide—is a deftly small bath. It's chrome like a coffee mug, and did we mention the price (faucet trap included)? \$10. bka.com

25. Meliss II

• **KERK**
Measuring only 41 inches high, it looks and behaves a 13-inch-tall. In this AGS, complete with built-in handrails, is a sink and slightly elongated level and a skirted base. From \$495. kerkusa.com

26. Glass Knobs
• **AMEROCK**

Seeing is waiting to touch these dainty knobs. In best shapes and fine finishes. They're clear with minor tapered bevels—and use of metal, including wood, vinyl, look beautiful. \$9.99 each. amerock.com

27. Handmade Cement Tile

• **GRACE HILL**
We can't get enough of the vintage we want. I do look—and now we have these 6-inch-square tiles (7 1/2 inch thick) to prove it. From top to bottom: Flaxseed, Barky Mosaic, and River. From \$24 per square foot. gracehill.com

**28. Vintage Basch Vortex**

• **ELDRIDGE SYDNE**
The warm, farm wood look of this cast-concrete vessel is so convincing, you have to look hard to believe it. Mud to keep for a home. \$1,495. From \$27 per square foot. eldridgesydne.com

29. Glossy 1-Light Wall Sconce

• **HOUSE OF ANTIQUE HARDWARE**
This sleek sconce and glass shade need only an oil-rubbed brass to add a vintage accent to any bathroom. \$100. houseofantiquehardware.com

Bath

PHOTO TOP: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



30. FlexWash + FlexDry
• SAMSUNG
 Two loads, one machine, no wringer. Each of these front-loaders also has a smart app loader, instant fix diagnostics, Q-verify, color-mat settings and images all your going at once. From \$1,600 each, samsung.com

31. Cresello 56-611 Whitespread Faucet
• QESQI
 Lever handles, imported accents, an angled spout and finished like a 19th-century chisel (shown). Brushed copper, and brushed black make this right at home. From \$125, qesqi.com

32. Luxury Vinyl Sheet Flooring in Lettuce
• MANWORTH
 When your budget says you can't afford it, consider vinyl flooring. This pattern mimics porcelain tiles, looks like, right down to the buttering edges of water and comes in three finishes. From \$1.50 per square foot, manworth.com



33. Hillcrest Walnut Click Ceramic Planks
• FELSIN
 Get the look of walnut without losing a tree or making VOCs. It's not long planks, as ceramic and on-trend "live chemical emissions." Easy install—they can float, no glue needed. \$3.49 per square foot, lumberliquidators.com

34. Townsend Water-Saving Shower Head
• AMERICAN STANDARD
 The challenge: Tighten up water flow without losing the push. This 8 by 6-inch showerhead delivers 2.5 gpm (2.5 gallons per minute) without losing your high-pressure. From \$50, americanstandard.com

35. Hixley Cast Iron Pedestal Toilet
• SIGNATURE HARDWARE
 Here's a full-sized pedestal of tub with smooth lines and spray finish. It's also double-ended to choose the best view. And enjoy. From \$1,100, signaturehardware.com



Tools

36. Mobile Project Center
• HILTI TOOLS
 Unlike all plastic workbenches, this 40-pound steel version supports 350 pounds with its table up, or 1,100 pounds folded down. The top has a grooved track for clamps and butterfly connections to daisy-chain centers together. \$350, hilti.com

37. Laser Tape Measure
• GENERAL TOOLS
 The 56-foot tape measure has a built-in laser that measures up to 50 feet and is accurate to within 1/8 inch. To operate, just push the red button and read the distance on the LCD display. \$40, thesource.com

38. True Blue Digital Box Level
• DEWALT
 These are the first digital levels that self-calibrate with the touch of a button up to the nearest 1/16 of an inch. Set it either for level or slope. Calibrating the level to 1/2 inches from 1/300, dewalt.com

39. Multipurpose Drill Bit Set
• ROBERT BOSCH TOOL CORP.
 They look like regular twist-drill bits, but they're not. The 12.5-pound model makes an 180-degree turn, so it's a lot more useful than a twist drill. It's also a lot more powerful. From \$199, bosch.com

40. Ultra-Max Cordless Airless Sprayer
• SHRED
 Dousing up pressure from 500 to 2,000 psi, it sprays both water and solvent-based finishes, and needs no dip into a bucket. It's also a lot more powerful than a paint sprayer. From \$199, shred.com

41. 60-Volt FlexVolt Track Saw
• DEWALT
 Like all track saws, this 12.5-pound model makes an 180-degree turn, so it's a lot more useful than a twist drill. It's also a lot more powerful. From \$199, dewalt.com



42. 8-Gallon Dust Extractor

• MILWAUKEE TOOL

Every 15 seconds, the vacuum-suction filter shakes off accumulated dusts, resins and contaminants into a second, HEPA-grade filter complex with strict GEMA safety test. It's a top industrial and hospital decontaminating shower. \$399 milwaukeetool.com

43. 0.1-Dimensional Instrument

• INSTRUMENTS

Put the end of this pen size device along any surface. It will sort the dimension to your smartphone. Perfect for restoring planes—the top left corner edged scale—rest along curve. \$149 instruments.com

44. M1 Painting Hammer

• MARTINEZ TOOL CO.

This 25-ounce hybrid hammer features a replaceable head bolted to a lightweight titanium handle. The handle made of steel, which concentrates the

swing's impact force where it does the most good. The grip is also replaceable. \$225 martineztool.com

45. Ultra-Driver 36-to-One Tradesman's Screwdriver

• IRVING TOOLS

The handle snap-out controls houses 33Vry double-ended bits including Phillips, slotted, Torx, square, hex, and Ponder. A locking bit holder securely grips each bit when it's loose. \$36 irvingtools.com

46. 18-Volt Cordless Compressor

• RIDGID TOOLS

It's a first. A battery-powered air compressor for shooting nails and staples or filling tires. Fill the 1.1-liter tank to 120 psi, then draw up to 1,200 cfm rated flow. Weighted 19 pounds. \$100 ridgid.com

47. A1 Drill • WORK

The A1 drill and driver has one smart chuck. It automatically centers bits being tightened. It's just, better torque

42



43



44



45



46



47



48



49



50



51



52



and slips when a screw is perfectly set, and it pulses when screwing deeper or too slack. screws. \$220 for tool, battery and charger. milwauketo.com

48. Tick Tool Tracker

• MILWAUKEE TOOL

Attach this 2-inch weather-resistant disc to anything you want to keep track of, and when it's within 100 feet of your phone, the app will pinpoint its location. Tag a tool as stolen and you'll get an alert when another app user detects it. \$99 milwauketo.com

49. Straight Flush Saw • CUBLO

With the functional styling of a 900-watt jump, this 14.3-pound worm-drive saw sports an 8½-inch blade that can sever a built-in baggageman or make flush cuts both vertical and horizontal. \$575 cublo.com

50. Fir Coc Pro Thermal Imaging Camera • FLIR

This tiny camera, which attaches to your smartphone, shows how much heat a surface is emitting so you can find overheated outlets, missing insulation or dampness. The camera requires objects for enhanced clarity. \$399 flir.com

51. 3HV LXT Cordless Compact Router • MAKITA

This impressive router has soft start, variable speeds from 10,000 to 30,000 rpm, and constant speed control. And thanks to its powerful 5 amp battery, there's no cord, continuous 15-minute blades, both a feed and a plunge base. \$430 makitatool.com

52. Pro 750 Heat Gun • WAGNER SPRAY TECH

For safety and versatility, this gun lets you dial exactly the temperature you want from 125 to 1,200 degrees F, displayed on the LCD readout. When not in use, the heat is automatically reduced. \$70 wagner-spraytech.com

Home Tech

53. Echo Show • **AMAZON**

Amazon's first voice-controlled smart speaker gets a 7-inch touchscreen and camera, so now you can ask Alexa to play YouTube videos, show weather forecasts, and make video calls. \$130 (amazon.com/echo-show)

54. HomePod • **APPLE**

There's an iPhone face beat inside: Apple's voice-controlled speaker due out in December (let's call it *iPhoneSpeaker*) is a home music system. \$349 (apple.com/homepod)

55. Google Wifi • **GOOGLE**

Simply add one of these mesh-networking devices to your Wi-Fi signal, and it works in your home to provide strong signal into every corner. \$299 for a three-pack (google.com/wifi)

56. PLAYBASE • **SONOS**

This sound bar dramatically enhances your TV audio, so now you're not ready to install true surround sound. More rumbles will fill the room. \$599 (sonos.com/playbase)

57. Spotlight Cam Solar • **BBG**

Just a few hours of sunlight keep this security camera charged, making it right for spots and at its a cheap solar power. The HD outdoor cameras two-way talk with Spotlight. \$299 (bg.com/spotlight-cam-solar)

58. US98 SmartPlug • **HOME**

Make your quirky old lamps smart appliances with this plug adapter that gives you an off control by app (including Alexa and Siri voice control). Or use the handy remote. \$50 (sonos.com)

59. Base Pulldown Kitchen Faucet with MotionSense Wires • **MOEN**

Most kitchen faucets don't have motionSense Wires. Wave your hands to turn water on or off. Great for people with hand issues. \$299 (moen.com)

60. Sleep Number 360 Smart Bed • **SLEEP NUMBER**

Warm your feet to help you drift off. June mattress firmness and track your "SleepIQ" quality of sleep throughout



the night. \$2,499 (sleepnumber.com/360)

61. Lighthouse Home Security Camera • **LIGHTHOUSE**

Lighthouse's 3-D motion and machine learning technology make for many accurate facial recognition alerts, with push language commands like "Who was with the dog yesterday around noon by the back door?" \$299 plus \$30 for first year of service. lighthouse.com

**62. Roomba 690** • **IROBOT**

This 2017 update to Roomba's reliable robot vacuum adds Wi-Fi for remote control via the company's smartphone app, plus voice control (compatible with Alexa or Siri). (Also, ask Roomba to stop cleaning.) \$275 (irobot.com)

**63. Roku Ultra** • **ROKU INC.**

One of the first streaming media players to support the wider color, although dynamic range (HDR10, 4K). The stick remote has voice search, game buttons, and best of all, a "remote finder" feature that emits a sound ping. \$120 (roku.com)

**64. Smoke Gateway** • **THINGSYSTEMS**

Many smoke-free 6000s, built by the Smoke IQ. The gateway, which already has a 300-foot wireless range for monitoring grilling and smoking. This new Wi-Fi gateway and supports automatic connection to "cook your cook" from anywhere with temperature alerts and glowing gratifying signs. \$89 (thingsystems.com)

65. Nanoleaf Aurora • **NANOLEAF**

Well, adjustable colored LED lights can be configured into any shape and size, and they're not just for lighting. Some have, some have cool and, with the Aurora Rhythm color (sold separately) in a variety of colors. \$200 for one panel. nanoleaf.me

66. Molekule Air Purifier • **MOLEKULE**

The "world's first molecular air purifier" claims to destroy allergens, mold, bacteria, and VOCs on a microscopic scale using a pair of UV light beams converted into air purifiers in the dust. \$750 (molekule.com)

95. Pure Wood Deck Locks - TID Installation + PARAGON WOOD PRODUCTS
Tangling metal end caps allows it to be taken into work cavities or slots and applied with a fit value by 57 percent, to \$1,825. It is a naturally noncombustible and moisture resistant, and it adapts sound and PVCs. \$5 per cubic foot. paragonwoodproducts.com

96. RockSolid Deck Start Wood Primer + MUST-GLUE
The clear water based primer eliminates the need to prep and sand before wood before applying an acrylic solid color stain. The acrylic formula allows for a translucent finish, removing the longevity of the top coat. \$35. mustglue.com

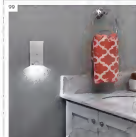
97. Wood Cabinet with Rib Mounts + FEDERAL BRACE
These paint grade maple cabinets have a ribbed shaker routed to accept a 14-inch thick powder coated steel rib that supports an outstanding 375 pounds. Choose from eight solid wood styles.

such as the Murray corbel bracket (shown). From \$65. federalbracket.com

98. Weathered Wood Accelerator + KARATHANE
This penetrating finish reacts with the tannins in woods to create a natural-looking look in 30 to 60 minutes. The higher the tannin levels, and the longer the finish is, the greater the results. \$10 per quart. karathane.com

99. SwitchLight Cover Plate + SHIMMER
A three-LED night light turns on and off automatically thanks to a photoelectric eye and uses only 32 cents of electricity a year. Plug to install. Plug into any of the switch's terminals. \$15. smg.com

100. Mold Killer + FLOE
Authentic EPA registered mold killer. This bleach free formula kills mold on any surface with fungicide. It comes packaged in five different sizes: indoor/outdoor, HVAC, shower and bath, tile and grout, and paint prep. \$10 each. To a com-



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